NOTE XXVI.

A NEW HELOTA-SPECIES FROM KONDUÉ (BELGIAN CONGO)

DESCRIBED BY

C. RITSEMA Cz.

Helota Lujae, n. sp. ♂ and ♀.

This new species belongs to the group of *guineensis*, *Sjöstedti* and *africana* [1]) but is nearer to both the former than to the latter, having in the female-sex the apices of the elytra pointed, not obliquely truncate between the 3rd interstice and the suture. It differs however in the male-sex from *guineensis* and *Sjöstedti* (the ♂ of *africana* is not known) by the absence of the small hairy spot on the middle of the basal ventral segment. Moreover it differs from *Sjöstedti* by the situation of the black spot in the fulvous basal half of the elytra: in *Sjöstedti* as well as in *africana* (*guineensis* is unspotted) this spot lies nearer to the basal margin of the elytra than to the front border of the black apical half (consequently in the basal half of the fulvous portion) and is placed between the 3rd and 4th striae; in the new species however nearer to the front border of the black apical half (consequently in the apical half of the fulvous portion) and between the 4th and 5th striae.

Length 14 mm. — Elongate, depressed, shining; pale fulvous, the head with mandibles (the throat excepted), a broad streak along the middle of the pronotum, the basal

1) Notes Leyd. Mus. Vol. XXV (1905), pp. 214, 215.

and lateral edges of the pronotum, the scutellum, and the basal edge and apical half of the elytra black, the latter with a very indistinct bronze hue; a black spot between the 4th and 5th striae, just behind the middle of the fulvous basal half of the elytra, followed by a slightly convex yellowish spot of the same length but broader, lying between the 3rd and 6th striae, which touches the hind border of the black spot and the front border of the black apical half of the elytra; antennae black, with the exception of the 4 or 5 basal joints which are reddish; legs pale fulvous, the trochanters, the apex of the femora, and the basal and apical third of the tibiae black, the tarsi pitchy brown.

Head strongly produced in front of the eyes, slightly raised along the middle between the eyes, the raised portion with a few large ovate punctures; the punctuation on the narrowed front portion very fine, that between the raised middle portion and the eyes coarse.

Prothorax slightly broader at the base than long, narrowing to the front in nearly straight lines; the anterior angles rounded and slightly produced; the base broadly bisinuate, the median lobe rounded, the lateral angles acute. An irregular impunctate streak along the middle of the pronotum, occupying one 5th (or slightly more) of the breadth of the pronotum; outward from this impunctate streak the pronotum is irregularly covered with large punctures which are more or less arranged in groups; along the sides the punctures are close together. The scutellum is transverse, glossy and impunctate.

Elytra parallel, each with ten regular rows of small punctures which become larger in the 5th and following rows; in the slightly convex yellowish spot between the 3rd and 6th striae the punctures of the 4th and 5th striae are obliterated; the interstices are impunctate; the 1st (sutural one), 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th interstices are raised (less distinctly in the ♂ than in the ♀) on the apical portion, the two latter from beyond the shoulder; the 3rd and 9th interstices extend to the apical margin.

Under surface: the triangular middle-portion of the head finely and rather sparingly punctured, the lateral portions more coarsely so; the sides of the sterna with a few distinct punctures; the elytral epipleurae with a few ditto along the inner margin of the basal portion; the ventral segments apparently impunctate, except one or two hair-bearing punctures on both sides of the middle of each segment; the legs are finely punctate.

♂. Legs more slender and more elongate than in the ♀; the intermediate and posterior femora slightly curved, flattened beneath; the anterior tibiae distinctly curved, the apical third of the inner margin fringed with long fulvous hairs; the intermediate and posterior tibiae straight, the latter with a tuft of long fulvous hairs at the apex of the underside; basal ventral segment simple, without tuft of hairs in the middle; the apical ventral segment broadly truncated posteriorly, the truncation slightly bisinuate and preceded by a large but shallow ill-defined impression which is covered by a velvety fulvous pubescence. Apices of elytra conjointly rounded, the margin regular not sinuated.

♀. Legs and basal ventral segment simple, apical ventral segment truncated posteriorly, the truncation straight. Apices of elytra pointed, slightly dehiscent at the suture.

Hab. Kondué (Belgian Congo). — The described ♂ and ♀, sent over by Mr. Ed. Luja to whom I dedicate the species, are in the State Museum of Natural History at Luxemburg.

Helota guineensis, *Sjöstedti*, *africana* and *Lujae* may easily be distinguished by the aid of the following key.

§. Fulvous basal half of elytra without black spot; the apices of the elytra in the ♀ pointed, without a sutural tooth.
  †. The apices of the elytra in the ♀ but slightly prolonged, in the ♂ broadly rounded; 7th elytral interstice in the ♂ strongly raised *guineensis*.

††. The apices of the elytra in the ♀ more strongly prolonged, in the ♂ more narrowly rounded; 7th elytral interstice in the ♂ but slightly raised . . . . . *Sjöstedti* var.

§§. Fulvous basal half of elytra with a black spot on each elytron; the apices of the elytra in the ♀ pointed or obliquely truncate between the 3rd interstice and the suture and then with a small sutural tooth.

†. The black spot situated before the middle of the fulvous half and placed between the 3rd and 4th striae.

*. Apices of elytra in the ♀ pointed, in the ♂ rather narrowly rounded; basal ventral segment in the ♂ with a small hairy spot in the middle . . *Sjöstedti.*

**. Apices of elytra in the ♀ obliquely truncate between the 3rd interstice and the suture, and with a small sutural tooth; (♂ unknown) . . . . . *africana.*

††. The black spot situated behind the middle of the fulvous half and placed between the 4th and 5th striae. . . . . *Lujae.*

Leyden Museum, November 1910.